Revision in category of dealer selection

†4347. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of retail outlets of various oil companies throughout the country, in whose respect the Dealer Selection Board failed to select any of dealers on two or more occasions for want of applicants of relevant category;

(b) the number of such outlets out of them, which are being run on COCO basis in the absence of full time dealer of relevant category;

(c) whether Government are considering to alter the category of these outlets; and

(d) if so, by when the same is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) There are 40 retail outlet dealerships of various oil companies, for which dealers could not be selected by the Dealer Selection Boards in the absence of suitable applicants belonging to the respective categories. Out of these, 11 dealerships are being operated on COCO basis pending the selection of regular dealers.

The retail outlet dealerships for which dealers could not be selected in the absence of suitable applicants belonging to the respective categories even after two advertisements, are decategorised with the approval of the Government and the shortfall in reservation in the particular category is made good in the ensuing Marketing Plan.

Review of fuel policy

4348. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed review has been made of the existing fuel policy consequent to recent Supreme Court directive to phase out diesel buses in the Capital, so as to save other metropolises from the transportation crisis that grip Delhi; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fresh policy initiatives taken to check further degradation of health of the citizens in various parts of the country on account of auto air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Expert Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) to recommend an Auto Fuel Policy, for the Country, has made various recommendations in its Interim Report relating to introduction of cleaner fuels and better emission standards etc. The recommendations of the Committee have been approved by the Government and they have been communicated to the concerned Ministries and the oil companies for implementation.

In the light of the recent Supreme Court directives and based on the final report of the Expert Committee, necessary decisions will be taken.

Irregularities in Publications Division

†4349. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published on 19th March, 2002 in "Rashtriya Sahara", New Delhi under the caption, "Prakashan Vibhag main aniyamittaoun kay chaltey karoro rupay ka nuksaan";

(b) if so, the facts of this case; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons responsible for the irregularities being committed in the Publications Division?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item published in Rashtriya Sahara on 19th March, 2002 has been examined and found that it was published without ascertaining the factual position from the Government i.e. National Gallery of Modern Art or Department of Culture. The allegations made therein are unfounded.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.